

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-01 AID-05 IGA-02 SS-15 INR-07 L-03

/043 W

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R 202217Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 925

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 0663

FOR EA/ANP

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: POSSIBLE PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS FOR COOK ISLANDS

REF SCANLON (OIC OF PEACE CORPS SOLOMON ISLANDS)

TO SELDEN LETTER OF FEBRUARY 18

1. SCANLON'S LETTER INFORMS ME THAT HE WAS DUE IN RARATONGA THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS WITH COOK ISLAND OFFICIALS POSSIBILITY OF POSITIONING PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN COOK ISLANDS. GENESIS OF SCANLON'S VISIT WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN HIM AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COOK ISLANDS AT THE LAST CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION DURING WHICH OFFICIAL EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. SCANLON'S LETTER IS THE FIRST SUGGESTION THAT HAS COME TO ATTENTION OF EMBASSY THAT ANY SUCH POSSIBILITY WAS BEING CONSIDERED.

2. AS DEPARTMENT WILL REALIZE, NEW ZEALAND'S RELATIONSHIP WITH COOK ISLANDS IS SUCH THAT WE SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITH ANY PLANS FOR VOLUNTEERS THERE WITHOUT CAREFULLY CHECKING MATTER OUT WITH GNZ. NEW ZEALAND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY OF COOK ISLANDS AND COOK ISLANDERS ENJOY BOTH COOK ISLAND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND NEW ZEALAND CITIZENSHIP. GNZ HAS CONSIDERABLE AID

PRGRAM IN COOK ISLANDS AND SPONSORS A CERTAIN AMOUNT
OF VOLUNTEER WORK THERE. THUS, ANY USG ACTIVITY IN
THIS AREA MIGHT COMPETE WITH WORK ALREADY BEING DONE
BY NEW ZEALANDERS. SO LEAST WE CAN DO IS FEEL GNZ OUT
CAREFULLY BEFORE WE MAKE ANY OFFERS TO COOK ISLANDS.

3. REQUEST YOU BRING FOREGOING TO ATTENTION OF PEACE
CORPS HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON AND PROVIDE US WITH
STATUS REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT.

SELDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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